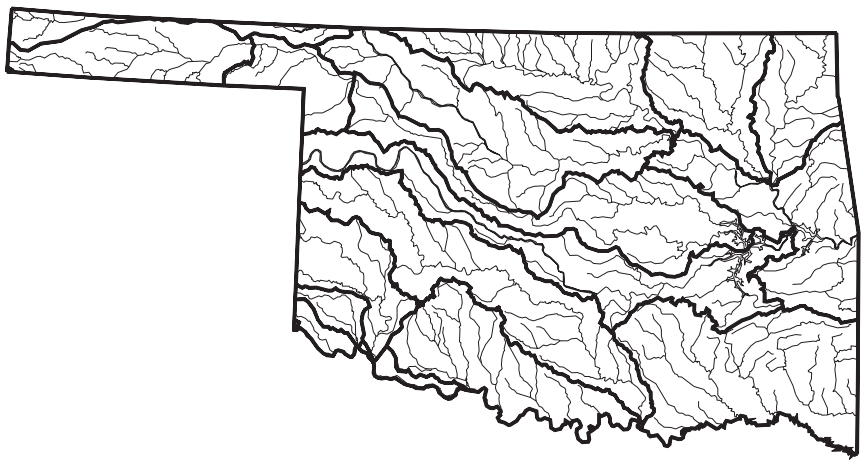
Oklahoma



Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For a copy of the Oklahoma 1996 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

Over 60% of the surveyed river miles have good water quality that fully supports aquatic life uses and 69% fully support swimming. The most common pollutants found in Oklahoma rivers are siltation, pesticides, nutrients, and suspended solids. Agriculture is the leading source of pollution in the State's rivers and streams, followed by petroleum extraction and hydrologic/habitat modifications.

Sixty percent of the surveyed lake acres fully support aquatic life uses and more than 66% fully support swimming. The most widespread pollutants in Oklahoma's lakes are siltation, nutrients, suspended solids, pesticides, and oxygen-depleting substances. Agriculture is also the most common source of pollution in lakes, followed by contaminated sediments and hydrologic/habitat modifications. Several lakes are impacted by acid mine drainage, including the Gaines Creek arm of Lake Eufaula and the Lake O' the Cherokees.

Ground Water Quality

Ambient ground water monitoring has detected elevated nitrate concentrations in monitoring wells scattered across the State. Monitoring has also detected isolated cases of hydrocarbon contamination, elevated selenium and fluoride concentrations (probably due to natural sources), chloride contamination from discontinued oil field activities, metals from past mining operations, and gross alpha activity above maximum allowable limits. Industrial solvents contaminate a few sites near landfills, storage pits, and Tinker Air Force Base. The State rates agriculture, injection wells, septic tanks, surface impoundments, and underground storage tanks as the highest priority sources of ground water contamination.

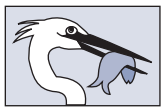
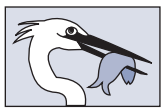
Programs to Restore Water Quality

Oklahoma's nonpoint source control program is a cooperative effort of State, Federal, and local agencies that sponsors demonstration projects. The demonstration projects feature implementation of agricultural best management practices, water quality monitoring before and after BMP implementation, technical assistance, education, and development of comprehensive watershed management plans. Currently, Oklahoma is conducting five NPS projects in Comanche County, Greer and Beckham Counties, Custer County, Tillman County, and the Illinois River Basin.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

Oklahoma's Conservation Commission is conducting five large watershed studies in the Illinois River Basin, the Little River Basin, the Neosho (Grand) River Basin, the Southeast Oklahoma Multiple Basin, and the Poteau River/Wister Lake Project (a cooperative effort with the LeFlore Conservation District, the Water Board, and the USGS). All together, 385 sites will be sampled for chemical parameters and one- third of these sites will also be sampled for biological integrity.

Individual Use Support in Oklahoma

Designated Use[a]		Percent				
		Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Fair (Partially Supporting)	Poor (Not Supporting)	Poor (Not Attainable)
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 78,778)[b]						
	Total Miles Surveyed					
	5,706	9	52	30	9	0
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4,249	20	49	18	12	0
Lakes (Total Acres = 1,041,884)						
	Total Acres Surveyed					
	523,057	24	36	35	5	0
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	471,811	13	54	28	5	0

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

[a] A subset of Oklahoma's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the State's 305(b) report for a full description of the State's uses.

[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.